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Heidi M. May

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(signature)

April 24, 2003

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#3/A 1764
5-8-03
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In re Application of: Albert Calderon et al.]
Serial No. 09/901,554]
Filed: July 9, 2001]
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING]
CLEAN ENERGY FROM COAL]

Attorney Docket: 1-15755

April 24, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Sir:

Prior to the first Office Action and before examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Add new claim 39.

39. (New) A method for producing clean energy from coal comprising:

feeding coal into a chamber which is sealed to the atmosphere and which

possesses a charging end and a discharging end;

moving the coal within said chamber towards the discharging end;

injecting oxygen in such a way as to combust a portion of the coal while

maintaining a pressurized reducing atmosphere to:

(i) cause the release of high levels of thermal energy to devolatilize the coal;

and

A1